

ACQUISITIONS  
5-4

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CIRCULAR FOR THE ACQUISITION  
OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

~~SECRET~~

1 March 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Interdepartmental Committee

FROM: Design Frederick G. Kilgour, USNR

Following are excerpts from a letter recently received from  
Reuben Peiss in Lisbon.

"It is almost two months since I wrote my last report, but it  
can hardly be said that reports from this office have been  
lacking, since Ralph Carruthers has been cleaning up a good  
number of odds and ends before departing. Before I go any  
further, I think it might be put on record that if civilians  
in this war get any distinguished service medals, one should  
go to him. It is unnecessary to elaborate: you know very well  
how he has built this unit up. Only an extended sojourn here,  
however, gives one any true picture of the incessant difficul-  
ties which he managed to surmount. As you already know, he is  
in London, and you will undoubtedly soon be getting tangible  
evidence of his presence.

As for the planning of a quick move, I think you have something  
there. Ralph and I have talked over the possibilities, as they  
look at this end, and I think he is going to write you about  
them from London. I agree entirely that Lisbon will dry up as  
a source of publications. The process is already fairly advanced  
and several months from now the condition will certainly be ag-  
gravated. The post will have to be kept open for some time after  
things do dry up, however. If publications slow down, I could  
probably be of greater use elsewhere, with somebody left here to  
hold the fort. Not that it wouldn't be pleasant sojourning in  
Lisbon with work easing off, but I think I should begin to chafe  
at the bit before long. So rush Shacter and Mrs. Robinson along  
as fast as you can.

We are ordering the Hungarian titles, and with any sort of luck  
ought to get some of them. The Livraria Portugalia has good con-  
tacts with a Hungarian book dealer. It may take some time, how-  
ever, before they come through.

The weather here has been glorious for six solid weeks. Every  
day without exception the sun has been brilliant. At noontime  
the hardier souls venture out sans sobretudo (which I think a

~~SECRET~~

Reproduced from MSS collections, Lib. of Congress  
United States within the meaning of  
the Espionage Act, 50 U. S. C. 31 and  
32, as amended. This transmission or  
the revelation of its contents in any  
manner to an unauthorized person is  
prohibited by law.

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

wonderful word for overcoat). Everybody is worried about the crops, though. Of course it's the poor people who will get it in the neck, but if the food situation becomes too bad, perhaps Portugal can be induced to discover its ancient and friendly relations with others of the United Nations, and produce some further beneficial move like the Azores deal.

List of books leaving from Lisbon for shipment by sea pouch."

*Frederick G. Kilgour*  
Frederick G. Kilgour

FGK/viw

~~SECRET~~